

# Hampton CITY PAGE

Your Tax Dollars at Work

**SPECIAL  
EDITION**

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CITY OF HAMPTON ON 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS

## Virginia Budget Debate Affects You ...Voice Your Opinion

**Please Note:** We are aware that the situation described below could be resolved when this City Page appears ... however, as the City Page went to press we felt that, should the situation still be going on, it was important for citizens to know what they can do to help make a difference.

The General Assembly is currently debating the upcoming budget for the State of Virginia. There are two dramatically different options before the State:

- the House budget proposal
- the Senate budget proposal

The **House budget** would have a major **negative effect** on Virginia's cities. Most localities have indicated they will have to **raise local taxes** or **cut important services** if the House version is passed.

On the other hand, the **Senate budget** offers the real chance for **local tax relief** and **major investments in schools, public safety and neighborhoods**.

The General Assembly is currently facing a stalemate over the two proposals.

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Take the time to voice your support for either the House or Senate plan so that budget deliberators will know how **average taxpayers** feel. Let them know whether you want:

#### THE HOUSE PLAN

- Costs Hampton over \$3 million in lost state revenue
- Imposes millions of dollars of new expenses for the City and School System
- Would require either a major local tax increase or service cuts such as
  - libraries hours being shortened
  - fire/police response times being increased
  - fewer teachers and other resources for our youth

OR

#### THE SENATE PLAN

- Invests over \$13 million in new state dollars to Hampton:

- Examples of potential benefits:
  - money for construction of schools
  - greater school programming
  - more police officers
  - potential cuts in the local real estate tax

Many of our local state legislators are sympathetic to the plight of cities, and support the Senate budget proposal. If you agree let them know you back them up.

#### HAMPTON REPRESENTATIVES:

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**SENATOR LOCKE**  
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**DELEGATE BACOTE**  
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**DELEGATE WARD**  
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#### HOUSE BUDGET CONFEREES:

**DELEGATE CALLAHAN**  
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**DELEGATE HAMILTON**  
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**DELEGATE JOANNOU**  
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#### SENATE BUDGET CONFEREES:

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**SENATOR WAMPLER**  
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**SENATOR COLGAN**  
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**SENATOR STOSCH**  
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## Localities Around Virginia Feeling the Crunch

Decisions in Richmond are affecting many localities in Virginia - and that means services could be cut, and local taxes raised.

For example, in the city of Lynchburg, without necessary state funds the city is faced with these possibilities:

- Cutting support for city-sponsored events
- Shortening the hours for libraries
- Eliminating many youth programs
- Cutting adult computer classes
- Cleaning parks less often
- Converting some parks to "meadow", meaning they would be mowed as little as once per year
- Eliminating the downtown weed spraying program
- Allowing fewer hours when mothers could take their children to Toddler Time at the library

... and the list goes on

Hampton will have to make some of the same decisions if proper funding is not received from the state.

Many of our local state legislators are sympathetic to the plight of our cities. If you feel strongly about this, let them know you back them up. Contact your legislators (see the list in the Budget article on this page) and tell them how you feel.

## Let's Talk About Our Schools!

What types of schools should Hampton have in the future?

What should their size be?

How about cost? How should improved school facilities be paid for?

A panel of citizens and elected officials, known as the Schools Investment Panel, is presently meeting to address these kinds of questions. Overall, their focus will be to develop a strong community vision for schools capital needs.

Members of the panel include School Board members Lennie Routten and Linwood Harper; Council members Randy Gilliland and Turner Spencer; former School Board members Hunter Andrews and Dr. Mary Christian; community representatives Rick Bagley, Ann Bane, Dorene Barnett, Janet DuPont, Larry Cummings, Jack Ezell, Antonio Hinton, Lynn Moore, Mark Stuart, Pauline Snyder, Tommy Thompson, Margo Young-Wiggins, and Boo Williams; school staff members Joe Lewis and Johnny Pauls; City staff members Mary Bunting and Karl Daughtrey; staff support Linda Shifflette, Jim McAnally, Dr. Pat Johnson, and Terry O'Neill; and facilitator Barbara Easter.

This panel will conduct community-based discussion and develop a recommendation on long-range school investments including, but not limited to, facilities replacement and renovation program.

Meetings take place on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at various school sites in order to inspect the facilities. For information on these meetings contact Linda Shifflette at 727-2120.

**Citizens are asked to offer their input on Thursday, April 8 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at one of the following locations:**

- Bethel High School, located on Big Bethel Road
- Jones Middle School, located on Nickerson Boulevard
- Eaton Middle School, Cunningham Drive (Youth Only)